United Nations S/AC.37/2003/(1455)/42/Add.1

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 September 2004
English
Original: Arabic

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities

Letter dated 1 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Further to my letter to you dated 19 May 2003 (S/AC.37/2003/(1455)/42), to which a report submitted by the Government of Saudi Arabia was annexed, I have the pleasure to send you an additional report, submitted by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1455 (2003).

(*Signed*) Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
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Annex to the letter dated 1 September 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

Additional report of Saudi Arabia submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1455 (2003)

Introduction

The resolute stance on rejecting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations that has always been maintained by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on the Shariah, from which the country derives all of its statutes and regulations. Accordingly, Saudi Arabia is an active participant in all efforts being made at the regional and international levels to combat and uproot terrorism. At the domestic level, the Kingdom has undertaken a large number of measures essential for the prevention and countering of terrorist crimes. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore wishes to emphasize the following points:

- Its categorical rejection, condemnation and denunciation of all forms of terrorism, whatever its source or aims;
- Its active cooperation and participation in and contribution to international and bilateral efforts to combat terrorism and its financing;
- Its compliance with and implementation of the Security Council resolutions relating to counter-terrorism.

Below are some of the steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to implement the measures referred to in Security Council resolution 1455 (2003). We would refer also to the reports submitted by the Kingdom to the Security Council pursuant to Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1333 (2000) and 1390 (2002).

Paragraph 4

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that it has no new security information about members of Al-Qaida and the Taliban or other individuals, groups, undertakings or entities associated with them. Should the Kingdom obtain any new information, it will supply it to the Committee at a future date. We would point out here the importance of providing complete information concerning the names of individuals, groups, undertakings and entities included in the list, inasmuch as some of the names contain only two parts, are similar or include assumed names or unclear information, making it difficult to identify them properly or distinguish them from other, similar names.

Paragraph 5

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has laws and regulations to prevent any violations of the measures referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 1455 (2003). The Kingdom always strives to develop and strengthen its statutes and regulations relating to the combating and financing of terrorism. The following are examples of such efforts:

- The Kingdom has passed an anti-money-laundering regulation aimed at preventing money-laundering operations and the financing of terrorism. The

regulation includes articles that reflect the 40 recommendations on money-laundering and the eight recommendations on terrorist financing. Article 2 of the regulation criminalizes terrorist financing operations, terrorist activities and terrorist organizations, for all of which it stipulates deterrent penalties. Furthermore, the regulation includes articles on the establishment of a financial intelligence unit and defines the procedures for the withholding, freezing, and confiscation of assets;

- The Kingdom has approved the establishment of the National Saudi Society for Relief and Charitable Works Abroad to regulate relief and charity efforts in other countries;

- A joint evaluation team of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to review its Government's efforts in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism so as to ensure its compliance with the applicable international standards in this regard. Subsequently, during the FATF meeting in Paris on 25 to 27 February 2004, the evaluation team assessed the Kingdom's work and commended its efforts in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The team praised the procedures, measures, and initiatives undertaken by the Kingdom in this area on all fronts, at all levels and by all concerned authorities, whether financial, security-related, investigative or judicial. This constitutes an international endorsement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's efforts in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism that underscores its ongoing efforts in this field.

Paragraph 6

The relevant authorities in the Kingdom have undertaken a number of measures to implement paragraph 6. These include the following:

- Establishment of a higher committee for combating terrorism, whose role is to examine matters of relevance and study reports referred to it by the permanent committee for combating terrorism and to refer its findings to the competent authorities in order that they may take the necessary regulatory measures;

- Establishment of a permanent committee for combating terrorism, whose role is to receive requests from States and international organizations and review Security Council reports as well as to prepare reports pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);

- Freezing of accounts and financial assets of the Taliban pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999);

- Freezing of accounts of individuals named in the lists issued by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1333 (2000);

- Active participation in the meeting of the Group of Twenty and implementation of its eight recommendations on terrorist financing;

- Independent action, in 1994, to freeze the bank accounts of Osama bin Laden and anyone associated with him;

- The issuing by the Kingdom, on 26 September 2001, of an order to freeze accounts held by individuals and organizations listed in the United States

Executive Order on Terrorist Financing of 24 September 2001 before that list was formally issued by the Security Council;

- Implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, whereby the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) addressed circulars to banks operating in the Kingdom instructing them to investigate the extent to which they might be holding assets belonging to the individuals, groups, undertakings and entities included in the list of those suspected of having links to terrorism issued by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, to freeze any such accounts and to check also periods prior to the events of 11 September 2001. It should be noted that the Saudi Arabian banking system does not permit non-resident individuals or entities to open bank accounts. Nevertheless, all the names in the list issued by the Security Council were circulated to make sure that no accounts were held in their names;

- As a result of the circulation of those lists to banks operating in the Kingdom, the impounding, to date, of 42 accounts belonging to seven individuals and entities whose names are included in the lists, the amounts impounded totalling US$ 5,403,404;

- The effecting of bank transfers, under the Saudi Arabian banking system, only by authorized banks, with the consequence that no transfers of funds take place except via such banks, whose operations and procedures, in turn, fall under the supervision and monitoring of SAMA as the supervisory authority for such banks.

Paragraph 7

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that it will cooperate fully with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and with the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 8 of resolution 1455 (2003) in the discharge of its functions and the attainment of its goals and that it will strive to implement the Security Council resolutions relating to counter-terrorism.